

MINERAL IMPURITIES IN COAL COMBUSTION: E. Raask, Hemisphere Publishing Corporation, Washington, 1985, pp. 484, DM 210.

Mineral matter in coal is very much unwanted because it not only reduces the heating value of coal but also poses many operational problems in the form of boiler deposit, leakage, corrosion, environmental pollution etc. Therefore, it is essential to have a knowledge of the physical and chemical behaviour of mineral matter in coal during combustion. Although numerous papers on the subject have been published, dealing mainly on coal-ash behaviour in large boiler furnaces, there was no book covering the field dealing with both the theoretical and practical aspects of the role of mineral matter during combustion of coal. The author has very aptly, with his experience of half a century, satisfied the need for a book of this kind.

In this book the author has elaborately dealt with the influence of mineral matter of coal in boiler design ; in coal grinding and plant wear ; in boiler flame ; in slag and sintering formation ; on boiler deposit. Besides, the author has added greatly to the usefulness of the book by suggesting remedial measures to prevent boiler fouling and slagging. The author has made an outstanding contribution in understanding and solving ash related problems and improving designs of boilers. The book will be very useful to teachers, students and research scholars in various universities and institutions and research organizations related to coal ; planning and design institutes and industrial organizations using coal.

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INTRODUCTION TO GEOLOGY by R. K. Sinha, Oxford and IBH Publishing Co., New Delhi, 1985.

This purports to be an elementary text to aid teaching of geology in schools. In introducing the crust of the earth, the author makes the following extraordinary statement : ' the land mass now forming the continents, it appears, has slid along weaker zones of sialic layers as if each layer is placed one upon the other like a plate. More than 120 layers have been recognized in sialic portions.' This is the type of stuff which the author proposes to teach young students. There are many more similar statements in the book. The language is poor and ideas very confused and inaccurate. There are hardly any illustrations and the few that are given are badly drafted and of poor quality. They will only serve to confuse the mind of the reader.

This is not a book which we can recommend for a student trying to learn the elements of geology.

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